



# the witness corner

Digital Issue No. 84, February 2011

CALIFORNIA LAND SURVEYORS ASSOCIATION  
ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER  
PMB 201, 13681 Newport Avenue, Suite 8  
Tustin, California 92780

[www.oc-surveyors.org](http://www.oc-surveyors.org)

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Jim Fraser

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Alan Frank

**Education**  
Lisa Gaston

**J.P.P.C.**  
Roger Frank

**Newsletter Editor**  
Richard Lopez

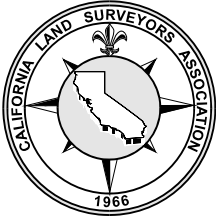
**Trig-Star**  
Greg Sebourn

**Legislative**  
Dave Woolley

**Scouting Merit Badge**  
Greg Sebourn

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**CALIFORNIA LAND SURVEYORS ASSOCIATION  
ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER**

**FEBRUARY DINNER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

**TUESDAY NIGHT – FEBRUARY 15, 2011  
SOCIAL 6:00 PM DINNER 7 :00 PM**

**“THE STATE OF THE STATE”**

**BY TONY CUOMO**

**LOCATION: JT SCHMID’S**

**2610 E. KATELLA BLVD., ANAHEIM, CA 92806  
ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE ANAHEIM POND  
JUST EAST OF THE 57 FREEWAY**

OVER THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS, OUR NEW PRESIDENT HAS ATTENDED SEVERAL KEY FUNCTIONS, INCLUDING:

- THE 2001 OREGON ‘P.L.S.O.’ STATE CONFERENCE
- THE 2011 CAL STATE FRESNO 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE
- THE JANUARY A.C.S.M., NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER, MEETING

IN DOING SO, HE HAS BEEN EXPOSED TO MANY IMPORTANT IDEAS, ISSUES, AND INDIVIDUALS. HIS BRIEF POWER POINT PRESENTATION WILL BRING TOGETHER THESE INFLUENCES, AND HIS DISCUSSION WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- EXCITING NEWS FROM RIC MOORE AND B.O.R.P.E.L.S.G.
- INSIGHTS FROM KEY MEMBERS OF THE OREGON PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS ORGANIZATION
- COMMENTS FROM A KEY PANEL DISCUSSION ABOUT THE FUTURE OF LAND SURVEYING IN CALIFORNIA, HELD AT THE FRESNO CONFERENCE
- VARIOUS DISCUSSION ITEMS WITH OUR STATE C.L.S.A. PRESIDENT, BILL HOFFERBER AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER AT LARGE, JAY SEYMORE
- DISCUSSION’S FROM OUR OWN BOARD AS TO CRITICAL ISSUES FACING THE SURVEYING PROFESSION IN CALIFORNIA

***YOU WILL NOT WANT TO MISS WHAT IS SURE TO BE  
THE LIVELY AND SPIRITED DISCUSSION OF THESE EVENTS.***

***And as always, you do not have to be a member to attend!***

**FOR RESERVATIONS CALL: JENNIFER PALMER (949) 474-1960  
OR E-MAIL RESERVATIONS: [jpalmer@fuscoe.com](mailto:jpalmer@fuscoe.com)**

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I was thinking about our predicament. You know, the "Rodney Dangerfield Complex", wherein surveyors basically get no respect. The problem is two fold. One, no one really understands what we do, and two, no one understands the worth of what we do. If you go to a doctor, chances are that you would really have no idea what he actually does. You know he or she is smart – it says so on the diploma – and you put your faith in whatever they do for you. You also understand the worth of a good doctor, too, because the ramifications of a bad one are usually instant and catastrophic. For me, it's the same with an auto mechanic. The key turns, and the vehicle doesn't start. Tony is in trouble at this point. I really have no idea what my mechanic does, but I can instantly see and evaluate the worth of his services by the fact that once he is done doing his magic, my car runs again.

Practically no one has a basic level of understanding when it comes to the practice and profession of Land Surveying. The comprehension of what it is that we do is almost zero. To the general public, and to most other A & E professionals, we are the guys who stand behind that thing in the middle of the street and wave our arms. All we do in the office is punch a button, and presto! AutoCAD does the rest. Heck, it's all in the computer – what's all the fuss about. All we have to do is 'make sure the corners connect'.....

As far as the relative worth of what these processes yield, again, the general understanding is next to non-existent. Even though our involvement on just about any design or construction project will span the entire time frame of the project, our contributions seem to nearly almost always go un-noticed, and certainly are pretty much universally un-appreciated. In spite of our monumental contribution to these processes, a large majority of the A & E would rather duct tape us to a rusty water pipe in the

basement rather than acknowledge us. And, if you think about it, those are the people who treat us the best! The general public is essentially completely ignorant to the benefits of our services. And let me make myself clear – I'm not talking about the benefits of the proverbial \$800 lot survey. I'm speaking of the services rendered by a comprehensive practitioner, a professional who, lets just say, colors inside the lines. All people see, both those inside the A & E community and the general public, are unnecessary dollar signs for a product that they truly do not understand or value.

Even when a problem arises from shoddy or unprofessional work, the finger is pointed back at our profession as a whole. Often, the problem is not seen as endemic of taking the cheap way out, but the phrase "You guys can never agree on anything – no wonder I'm in court fighting my neighbor" is usually lurking around the corner in every legal dispute. To quote the great sage of our times, the Fram Oil Filter Guy "You can pay me now, or you can pay me later..." Yet, far too often, bad work hides like an ugly virus, just biding time in a suspended state of limbo, until WHAMO – the 'fever' hits, the 'aches and pains' set in, and guess what: The virus has struck, and that cheap survey that was done 8 years ago by good old what's-his-name, (he was a great guy, wasn't he?), has reared its truly grotesque head and is now infecting everyone who was involved. Worse yet, it is also infecting people who were not even party to the original survey, sucking innocent adjoiners or unsuspecting design professionals into a disease ridden world of costly litigation and wasted time.

No what we do may not be as critically important as what a doctor does, or anywhere as urgent as what a good mechanic can accomplish with 30 uninterrupted minutes and the correct wrenches, but it is a learned skill set none the less. Additionally, it is a skill set that is not simply a mechanical set of "IF / THEN" instructions. What we do as skilled technicians and professionals is fraught with

hurdles, pitfalls, and roadblocks that only experience, patience, persistence, and common sense can solve. There is no 'typical' project. No matter how hard we tried, we could never set up the cross-section notes in the truck – we had to compose them as we surveyed (Ask an old guy, he'll explain that one to you) And no, it really does make sense that the two and a half acre job could actually cost 4 times more than the 10 acre job across the street.

The solution, you yearn for, what is the solution???? (this is really gonna hurt, so grab onto something solid) Education. The lack of education, both on our own part, and on our part in educating the client and the public, is, I believe, the root of our main issues. In the beginnings of our profession, surveyors held positions of power and influence because we were (at that time) men of science. We were the only ones who figured this measurement thing out early **and** put it together with a set of concepts and precedents that, for the most part, haven't waivered much in the last 225 years.

Now it seems that the general perception that the public has is provided by the bearded chainman with his hat on backwards over his ragged surf-n-sport hoodie, his Hurley plaid board shorts hanging half way off of his ass, and his right boot spray-painted red. A truly awesome flag-ship image for our profession. Think about it for a moment: what do most envision when you say "Doctor" or "Accountant" or (ugh) "Lawyer". Chances are that, among other more colorful adjectives (usually directed at the lawyers) that would be bandied about, words and phrases like 'professional', 'highly trained', and 'dedicated' would surface pretty early in the discussion. Chances are 'The Dude' doesn't float up to quickly.

What is the common denominator here?

Education. Up front and continuing.

California is one of only a handful of states that has no real education policy for the

profession of land surveying, and it shows. I deal with surveyors all across the western United States, and it's clear: we, as a state, are completely out of touch with what could be termed the 'educational standard or care'. But before you get the wrong idea, let me come completely clean here; as far as the question of who gets to sit for and/or keep a California license:

1. I do not believe a degree should be the sole criteria for consideration;
2. I do believe a degree must count for relevant experience;
  - a. I do agree a relevant 4-year B.S. degree should count for 3 years of experience. If you worked over the summers, then put that time down, too – we'll evaluate it;
  - b. Likewise, a relevant 2 year degree A.S. degree should count for 1 ½ years. Again, if you worked over the summer, let's see what you did then, too;
3. At the very least, California must adopt a mandatory Continuing Education system.
4. I do believe in order to renew our license, one must do more than simply forward a check every couple years – at the bare minimum, a take-home exam on California state laws that effect the surveying profession must be required.

So, that's my gripe, and I intend to do something about it. With the support of our members who concur, we will begin the process of taking these recommendations state-wide in an attempt to re-craft the legislation and rules that govern our profession.

And, no, I can't do the job for less money that I originally proposed, and no, I can't train your administrative assistant (no offence against administrative assistants, please) to plot the record easements into a record boundary, and yes, it really will take three weeks to perform the survey correctly, and on and on and on.

See you in class.....



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** January 4, 2011

**Location:** Psomas, Santa Ana

**Meeting called to order:** 5:32 PM

### **Attendees:**

Peter Fitzpatrick – President & Program

Tony Cuomo – Vice President

Dave Woolley – Treasurer

Lisa Gaston - Secretary

Joe Padilla- Committee Chair

Mike Simon – Chapter Rep.

Jim Fraser – Chapter Member

Chris Wolfe – Chapter Member

Greg Sebourn- Trig-Star Report

Richard Lopez- Newsletter Report

### **Motion made and passed to suspend Rules in order for all to vote.**

- Motion accepted.

### **No December minutes to be approved.**

### **President's Report: (Peter Fitzpatrick)**

- Action item for Dave to send a check to the State for \$1,205 for scholarships.
- Motion to sponsor an additional representative from Rancho Santiago in rotation every quarter to allow additional exposure at the State Board meeting for the college reps, benefit networking and other opportunities.
- Motion accepted
- Motion to fund Carl's Jr. truck at Trig-Star. Approximately \$1,400.
- Motion accepted

### **Vice President's Report: (Tony Cuomo)**

- No sponsor yet for next week's meeting
- Tony to renew the P.O. Box for the treasurer.
- Discussion on monument preservation.
- Creating a questionnaire for fellow surveyors to fill out about individual cities and their monument preservation tendencies.

### **Activities Chairman: (Joe Padilla)**

- Past Presidents Night, January 11, 2011.

### **Treasurer's Report: (Dave Woolley)**

- Attached

### **Secretary's Report: (Lisa Gaston)**

(No report)

### **Membership Report: (Alan Frank)**

(No report)

### **Education Report: (Lisa Gaston)**

- To notify scholarship recipients to be in attendance to receive their award to be presented at Past Presidents Night.

### **Legislative Report: (Dave Woolley)**

(No report)

**Trig Star and Scouting Merit Badge:  
(Greg Sebourn)**

Suggested that one way we could honor the accomplishments of young Eagle Scouts is to ask them to participate in presenting the Past President's scholarship awards this year.

**Newsletter: (Rich Lopez)**  
(No report)

**Program Report: (Peter Fitzpatrick)**  
(No Report)

**JPPC: (Roger Frank)**  
(No Report)

**Chapter Reps Report:**  
(No Report)

**Website (Kurt Troxell)**  
(No Report)

**Caltrans Liaison (Don Mertens)**

- Attached.

**New Business**

- Next board meeting at JFA on 2/08/11;  
5:30 p.m.

**Meeting Adjourned** at 6:45 p.m.

**Prepared by:**

Lisa Gaston -Secretary  
CLSA Orange County Chapter

**ORANGE COUNTY  
CHAPTER SCHEDULE OF  
2011 MEETINGS AND  
ACTIVITIES**

As a general rule, the board meets on the second tuesday of each month, and the general meeting is the following week. Below is our tentative schedule of events for the coming year. Please note that things change, and this is only tentative.

As of this writing, the board meetings will be held at the offices of johnson-frank &

associates, 5150 east hunter avenue, anaheim, ca, 92807. Board meetings commence at 5:00 with dinner, and generally run from 5:30 to 7:00 or 7:30. Any member is encouraged to attend, but seating is somewhat limited. If you have a matter that you believe should be brought to the board, please contact tony cuomo ([tonycuomo@johnson-frank.com](mailto:tonycuomo@johnson-frank.com)) with your intent.

February 8- Board meeting  
**February 15 – Tony Cuomo: “The state of the State”**

March 8 - Board meeting  
**March 15– Ray Mathe: Orange County Surveyor Night**

April 12 - Board meeting  
**April 19 – Guest Speaker TBD**

May 10 - Board meeting  
**May 17 – Joint Meeting with LACO Chapter**

June 14 - Board meeting  
**June 10 – Angel Night (Kansas City Royals)**

July 12 - Board meeting  
**July 19 – Paulie-fats Annual Pool Tournament (Tentative Date)**

August 9 - Board meeting  
**August 16 – Silent Auction Night**

September 13 - Board meeting  
**September 20 – Joint meeting with SDCO Chapter**

October 11 - Board meeting  
**October 18 – Guest Speaker TBD**

November 8 - Board meeting  
**November 15 – Scholarship Night**

December 13 - Board meeting  
**December – Casino Night (Date TBD)**

## EDITOR'S CORNER

Greetings Members,

I hope that this newsletter finds you all in good spirits and health.

Here we are, on our second month into the New Year and we are moving right along. Hopefully things are shaping up the way you want them too!

Throughout history, there have been many tragedies that our great Nation has suffered, where brave men and women have given up their lives to help better ours and the world that we live in.

To remember these brave souls we honor them with Days of Remembrances. On January 27<sup>th</sup> NASA honors the men and women who have lost their lives furthering the cause of exploration and discovery.



In the 50 years of manned space flight and 130 missions flown, only 3 were tragically lost; Apollo 1, Challenger, and Columbia.

The brave men and women of these missions paid the ultimate sacrifice in their quest to explore the unknown and to seek the answers that we as intelligent beings seek.



### APOLLO 1:

The Apollo 1 tragedy occurred January 27, 1967 during a preflight test. Virgil "Gus" Grissom, Edward H. White, and Roger B. Chaffee were running through routine training exercise when a fire broke out and swept through the command module and took their lives. They were scheduled to launch February 21, 1967.

After this tragedy, many new routine checks and procedures were introduced to avoid any more catastrophic losses.





### SPACE SHUTTLE CHALLENGER:

The Challenger's mission ended before it had the chance to leave the atmosphere.

On January 28, 1986, just 73 seconds after launch, a booster engine failed and caused the shuttle to break apart.

A faulty O-ring on one of the solid rocket boosters caused a chain of events that resulted in an explosion and tragedy.

As you will recall the Challenger carried one civilian passenger that day, Christa McAuliffe. Christa made history when she was selected as the primary candidate for NASA's Teacher in Space Project on July 19, 1985.



This mission will always be remembered by many, for on that day, millions of school children watched from their classrooms to see the first teacher to reach outer space.



### SPACE SHUTTLE COLUMBIA:

On February 1, 2003 the seven member crew of the Space Shuttle Columbia perished when the orbiter broke apart during re-entry.

Columbia was 16 minutes away from landing when mission control lost contact with the shuttle.

A piece of foam, falling from the external tank during launch, had opened a hole in one of the shuttle's wings, leading to the breakup of the orbiter upon re-entry.



As we forge on into the future, I think it is important to remember these men and women and what they have done and what they sacrificed for our great country; God Bless them all.

As for the Space program today, things are not as smooth as they use to be. Funding is being cut and we are at the end of the Space Shuttle Program.

There are only three remaining missions for the shuttle fleet. The remaining missions are:

- February 25, 2011
- April 19, 2011
- June 28, 2011

After these missions, Discovery, Endeavour, and Atlantis will retire.

The next generation of rockets, which will debut the Apollo-like Orion capsule and its Ares 1 rocket, will not be complete and ready until 2015. This new rocket is intended to ferry astronauts to and from the space station and, eventually the moon.

So during this 5 year gap between the retirement of the shuttle fleet and the debut of

the Orion, NASA will have to hitch rides to the space station aboard the Russian Soyuz spacecraft.

I hope you enjoyed my article on NASA's Day of Remembrance of our hero's of the cosmos.

Until next time, be safe, healthy, and happy.

Rich Lopez – Witness Corner Editor  
CLSA Orange County Chapter  
[rilopez@fuscoe.com](mailto:rilopez@fuscoe.com)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Riverside/San Bernardino Chapters are holding a Trig\*Star event on March 19<sup>th</sup> at Mt. San Jacinto College, San Jacinto-campus (1499 N. State Street, Can Jacinto).

Come on out and support the program and if you are available, I'm sure they would love the help. For more information contact Tim Rayburn at [traburn@rctlma.org](mailto:traburn@rctlma.org) or call 951-955-6717.

## SHOOTING POLARIS – A PERSONAL SURVEY IN THE AMERICAN WEST:

The following excerpt is from the book "Shooting Polaris – A personal Survey in the American West", by Prof. John Hales, University of Missouri Press, 2005.

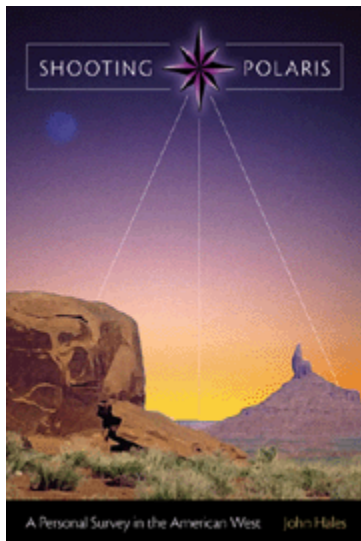
John is a professor in the English Department at Cal State Fresno, but worked summers as a surveyor for the B.L.M. in the 1970's. By his own estimate, he was the last government surveyor to be trained in the classic methods of the government survey of sections – a chain, a transit, a star, and a bearing were the essential tools of his trade.

*"A straight line goes where it goes. I learned quickly that this was the essence of the*

*government surveyor's work, the source of hard consequences for both the surveyor and the landscape he surveys. Hikers, road builders, even infantry soldiers, knowing that a straight line is not always the shortest distance between two points, can negotiate with the terrain, accommodate its impositions and irregularities when necessary or convenient, but after the bearing is calculated and the correct angle is turned, the scope of the surveyor's transit points the only direction it can, and the crosshairs can't equivocate. They tell only one simple truth, and that truth is straight, narrow, and uncompromising."*

Now you may ask why are we printing an excerpt from this book, well we are looking into having John speak at an upcoming meeting, but we do not have a date set as of yet.

Stay tuned and keep your fingers crossed!



## **VALENTINE'S DAY IS HERE!**

Not that any of you need reminding, but this coming Monday is Valentine's Day. So I am giving you plenty of notice to go out and pick up a gift for that special someone in your heart!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a Happy Valentine's Day and may you enjoy the day with the people you love.



Antonio Westerlund  
643 W Princeton Ave  
Fresno, CA, 93705  
December 1, 2010

Dear Orange County Chapter of CLSA,

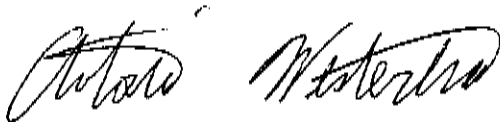
I would like to take time to thank you for the scholarship I received this year at your Annual Student Night. Your kind and generous donation makes it more possible for me to continue my education. With the rising cost of books and tuition, and the strain on our current economy, the best help can often time come monetarily.

It is very encouraging to receive support from a professional organization that represents those in the career that I am pursuing. My experiences with land surveying have all been enjoyable and educational. My long term goal is to become a Professional Land Surveyor. I will be taking the fundamentals in land surveying test in April and graduating from California State University Fresno with a BS in Geomatics Engineering. You are supporting someone that is excited about surveying and loves to learn.

I stayed in California to continue my college education in order to stay away from the high costs of out of state tuition. Your generosity adds much needed help to my college career. And I hope my college career can add much needed help to our economy once I graduate.

Once again, words cannot describe the amount of help your contribution is. Thank You.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Antonio Westerlund". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Antonio Westerlund

Kwan Ihn  
22365 El Toro Rd #157  
Lake Forest, CA 92630

January 20, 2011

Lisa K. Gaston  
Hunsaker & Associates  
3 Hughes  
Irvine, CA 92618

Dear Lisa,

I would like to express my gratitude as the recipient of the 2011 CLSA Education Foundation Scholarship. It was an honor and privilege that I am grateful for.

I enjoyed the warm camaraderie at the Past President's Night dinner meeting with members of the Orange County Chapter where the award was presented. I know you were not present, but I have met you in past CLSA meetings. Thank you for your dedication to the profession and commitment to the success of students.

I plan to be a good steward and apply my scholarship toward my educational and career goals in the surveying and mapping sciences. I hope one day to carry on the tradition of investing in others pursuing a career in surveying.

Thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kwan Ihn".

Kwan Ihn

Garroll White  
30 E. Ashlan  
Fresno, CA 93704

Orange County Chapter, CLSA  
PMB 201, 13681 Newport Avenue, Suite 8  
Tustin, CA 92780

Dear Orange County Chapter, CLSA,

Thank you very much for your support. This is the first scholarship I have ever received and the timing couldn't have been better. Survey work has slowed down at the firm I work for, resulting in the furloughing of my main work day. Without this scholarship, my family and I would have faced potential financial trouble. It means a lot to me to know that the surveying community, and in this case, the Orange County Chapter CLSA, acknowledges me and values me enough to help me financially, making it possible for me to succeed. Receiving a scholarship is extremely motivating and I am truly grateful for your support. It is a great feeling to know that the hard work I put into my education is recognized by others.

Again, thank you for the award.

Sincerely,

Garroll White,  
Student, CSU Fresno  
LSIT # 8100

# CLSA-NALS

## Conference 2011



March 5-9, 2011  
Bally's Las Vegas, Las Vegas NV

### Featuring:

- Continuing Education
- Scholarship Auction
- Exhibits



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Registration Information available soon.  
Please visit: [www.californiasurveyors.org](http://www.californiasurveyors.org) or [www.nv-landsurveyors.org](http://www.nv-landsurveyors.org)

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[conference@californiasurveyors.org](mailto:conference@californiasurveyors.org)

## **CLASSIFIED ADS**

### **NOTE: Classified Advertising Policy**

The Orange County Chapter's advertisements are \$50 per quarter, text only, full page width, limited to approximately 3 inches in height, using 12 point font. The ads will not only appear in the newsletter, but on the Orange County Chapter's website as well. To place or renew a classified advertisement, contact Richard Lopez at (949) 474-1960 x4377 or at [richard@fuscoe.com](mailto:richard@fuscoe.com)

*Thanks, Allen Instruments, Arrowhead Mapping,*

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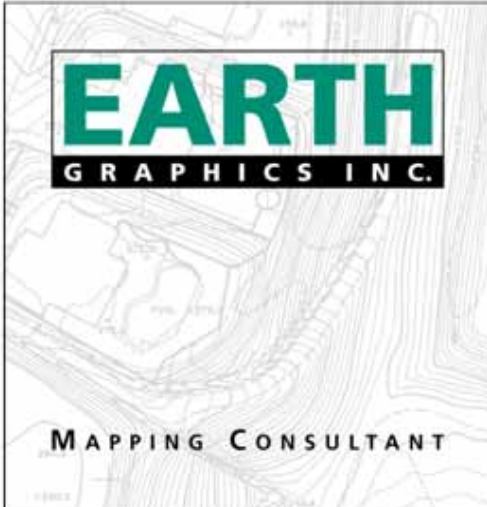
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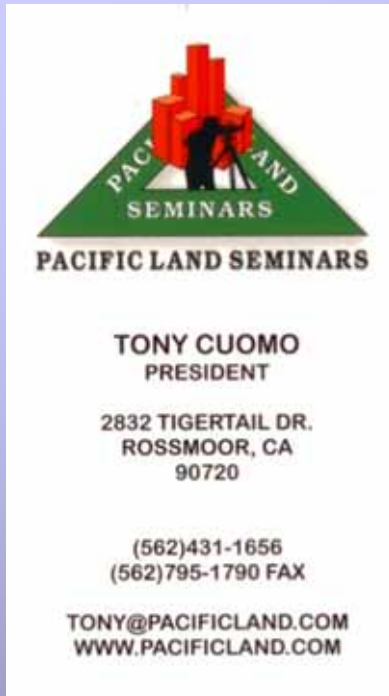
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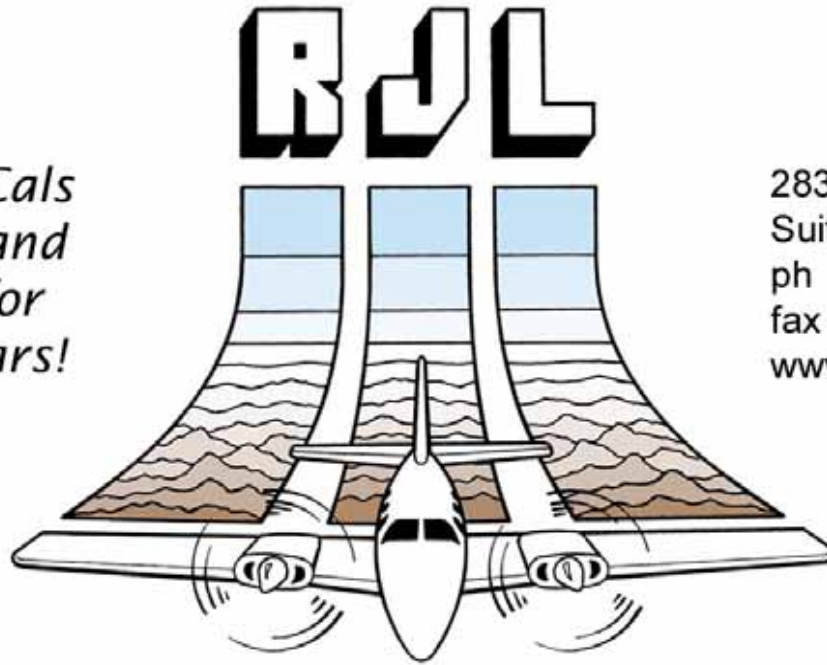
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